

The COVID-19 pandemic didn't go away while the Nation rightfully turned its eyes to issues of racial justice.

Yesterday, the United States eclipsed 2 million cases of coronavirus. Another 1.5 million Americans filed for unemployment this week. Federal Reserve officials—sober, nonpolitical—are predicting that, best case, we will end the year around 10 percent unemployment—a staggering figure. One out of every 10.

The disease is spiking in a number of States around the country. Arizona officials have warned that its hospitals could be filled by next month. Texas has gone 3 straight days with record numbers of hospitalizations. North Carolina, New Mexico, California, Oregon, and several other States are experiencing a resurgence or peak levels of COVID-19.

As the President continues to fixate on the stock market and Senate Republicans are prematurely ready to declare victory, we need to wrest the focus back to these crucial issues. So today I am requesting that Dr. Fauci and Dr. Birx and other members of the administration's Coronavirus Task Force conduct a briefing for Democratic Senators on the recent spikes and do it next week. We need to understand why these spikes are happening and how to adapt our national response.

The President—always interested in himself, not in the good of the country—was too quick to sideline the Coronavirus Task Force, too eager to pretend that everything was back to normal and better than ever. The country needs Dr. Fauci on billboards, but the President wants to put him on a milk carton.

The Vice President yesterday was photographed with campaign staffers in a tight space, no social distancing, without anyone wearing a mask. The very least the administration could do is lead by example and often cannot even manage that much.

At the same time, we cannot forget that the issues of racial justice and COVID-19 are intricately related. The COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately kills Black Americans. Communities of color have less access to quality healthcare, greater food insecurity, greater percentages of poverty, and a disproportionate number of our front-line essential workers—41.2 percent—are African American and Latino. The majority of African Americans are renters and dedicate more than 50 percent of their income to rent.

The truth is, an emergency bill on COVID-19 is a racial justice issue too. Hazard pay for essential workers is a racial justice issue too. Healthcare is a racial justice issue too. Rent assistance and forbearance from eviction is a racial justice issue too. These are all items that must be discussed in another COVID relief bill, and it is past time to get to work.

African Americans, Latinos, and other minorities are taking the eco-

nomic hit from the coronavirus on the chin, but Senate Republicans, led by Leader MCCONNELL, are reportedly unwilling to consider another emergency relief bill until late July. How many more workers will lose their jobs between now and late July? How many renters will be kicked out of their homes between now and late July? How many State and local government workers will lose their jobs, as State and local governments meet their budget deadlines on July 1 and don't have the dollars to deal with them? How many of them will lose their jobs? Waiting until late July is callous, it is cold, and it is wrong for our economy.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, the Republican majority seems to have a whole lot of time to push rightwing judges. That is what they want to do next week. And both of the judges that they nominate—to show the hypocrisy of those who talk about wanting to help and compare it to their actions, both of those judges have an antipathy to our healthcare law. In the middle of a public healthcare crisis, the Republican majority thinks they can get away with stuff like this, but they can't. Americans are catching on. One of the nominees, Cory Wilson, has an alarming record on voting rights in the middle of a national reckoning on racial injustice, and you are all going to vote for him? This guy has opposed voting rights, and you are going to vote for him. They oppose healthcare. You are going to vote for them. And then they are going to give nice speeches on how they want equality. The two have to add up together.

ELECTION SECURITY

Mr. SCHUMER. The Republican majority also seems to have time to chase all of President Trump's wild conspiracy theories about how he was wronged by law enforcement—the poor, beleaguered President Trump. My goodness. That is what is happening in Judiciary today. Republican Majority Leader MCCONNELL can devote time to that, but they can't commit to time on the floor about how Black Americans are being wronged by law enforcement.

In order to bring a small appearance of fairness to this ridiculous Judiciary Committee vote today, Democrats will be requesting subpoenas for Trump campaign associates like Michael Cohen, Rick Gates, George Papadopoulos, and Michael Flynn, among others. These men have at one time or another pled guilty to offenses related to Putin's interference in the election. Let's hear what they have to say, or should this be just a one-sided kangaroo court to please President Trump?

If the Republican conspiracy caucus wants to waste the Senate's time dredging up old conspiracy theories about the previous election, let's at

least get the straight story. Let's at least hear witnesses who might have something different to say. This is not a dictatorship. This is not how courts or hearings are supposed to work, I would say to the Republican chairman, and it is beneath his dignity and the dignity of the body to conduct such sham, kangaroo court hearings.

I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BARRASSO). Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

TAXPAYER FIRST ACT OF 2019— Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 1957, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1957) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modernize and improve the Internal Revenue Service, and for other purposes.

Pending:

McConnell (for Gardner) amendment No. 1617, in the nature of a substitute.

McConnell amendment No. 1626 (to amendment No. 1617), to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 1627 (to amendment No. 1626), of a perfecting nature.

McConnell amendment No. 1628 (to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 1617), to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 1629 (to amendment No. 1628), of a perfecting nature.

McConnell motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with instructions, McConnell amendment No. 1630, to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 1631 (to (the instructions) amendment No. 1630), of a perfecting nature.

McConnell amendment No. 1632 (to amendment No. 1631), of a perfecting nature.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

(The remarks of Mr. THUNE pertaining to the introduction of S. 3938 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. THUNE. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROTESTS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, it has been 17 days since Minneapolis police murdered George Floyd; 90 days since police in Louisville, KY, killed Breonna Taylor, who would have turned 27 just days ago; and 109 days since Ahmaud Arbery was killed by